

Application No.: 08/894,766

page 16, line 11: change "continuous" to --uninterrupted--;

page 17, line 16: change "in" to -- by--;

line 28: change "imitation" to --false--;

page 18, line 19: after "wobble" insert --or cam--;

page 19, line 14: after "too," insert --there is no need for--;

line 15: delete "are dispensed with";

line 16: delete "it is not possible to mount"; and

line 17: after "54" insert --cannot be mounted--.

In the claims:

Cancel claims 1-21 and substitute the following new claims:

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22. (New) A method of checking security documents provided with at least one element of predetermined electrically conductive properties representative of the identity of the document, comprising the steps of:

feeding the document at a predetermined velocity along a path;

transmitting energy by way of capacitive coupling through the element of the documents from a plurality of transmitters to associated receivers;

deriving a first signal from each receiver as a function of the conductive properties of the element;

comparing the first signal against a reference signal representative of the identity of the document.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of transmitting the energy from each transmitter at a different phase position.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of deriving the first signal as a function of the velocity.


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25. (New) The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of deriving the first signal as an amplitude signal.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of converting the first signal into a digital signal.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of presetting the amplitude in accordance with predetermined properties of a document of a certain kind.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of determining amplitude over time.

 29. (New) The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of deriving a second signal for distinguishing between documents of different kinds and identical amplitudes.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of separating documents the first signal of which conforms to the reference signal from documents providing a first signal differing therefrom.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of selectively combining the first and second signals for actuating a sorting device.

32. (New) An apparatus for checking security documents provided with at least one element of predetermined electrically conductive properties representative of the identity of the document, comprising:

means for feeding the document at a predetermined velocity along a predetermined path;

means disposed along the path for transmitting energy;

means disposed along the path for receiving the energy by way of the electrically conductive element;

means for generating a first signal as a function of the received energy;

means for storing a signal representative of the identity of the document;

means for comparing the first signal against the representative signal.

33. (New) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the means for transmitting energy comprises a plurality of antennae for transmitting energy of different phase positions.

34. (New) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the means for receiving energy comprises a plurality of antennae each of which is associated with a transmitting antenna.

35. (New) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the means for generating the first signal comprises a selective amplifier and an analog to digital converter.

36. (New) The apparatus of claim 35, further comprising a trigger having an input connected to the output of the analog to digital converter.

37. (New) The apparatus of claim 36, further comprising means for generating a second signal in response to movement of a document along the path.

38. (New) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the output of the second signal